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Septic inspections get underway in MH

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The Township of Minden Hills will enact its septic re-inspection program this year, becoming the last of the county's four lower-tier municipalities to commence its mandatory inspection program.

While the requirement for the programs comes from the provincial government, the design and process of each program is up to individual municipal governments. Minden Hills has hired firm WSP Canada to complete its program, the company also used by the Township of Algonquin Highlands and the Municipality of Dysart et al for their respective programs.

As consultant Paisley McDowell told Minden Hills councillors during an April 8 online meeting, when it comes to lakes that straddle municipal boundaries, the company will schedule inspections so that residents of a particular lake all have their inspections completed during the same year.

"In particular, we have lakes that are being split across Dysart and Minden Hills," McDowell said. "We really wanted to make those the same year, so that we didn't have any neighbours disrupted and potentially confused about when their year was for the program."

Properties are scheduled to be inspected
see **PROPERTY** page 2



Shedding light on the subject

Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grade 1 teacher Chris Little works with student River Mackenzie-Yuke on his "food chains" display on April 6 in Minden. The outdoor session, which helped students to understand the relationships between food sources and how integral the sun is to the production of food, was part of the class's science curriculum. See more photos on page 17./DARREN LUM Staff

Man dies in motorcycle collision on Bobcaygeon Road

A 58-year-old man from Toronto died in a motorcycle collision on Bobcaygeon Road last week.

On April 7, just after 4 p.m., Haliburton Highlands OPP and emergency crews were called to assist at the collision in Minden Hills.

"A motorcycle traveling northbound on Bobcaygeon Road failed to negotiate a curve in the road and crashed into the ditch," reads the OPP press release. "The rider was transported by Haliburton County Paramedic Services to an area hospital."

Bradley Benedict was pronounced de-

ceased shortly after arriving at the hospital, according to OPP.

Bobcaygeon Road was closed for several hours while OPP members trained in collision reconstruction measured and documented the scene.

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Ontario schools to remain closed following break

by **MIKE BAKER**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

High school and elementary students in Ontario will be transitioning back to at-home learning following April Break, Premier Doug Ford confirmed on Monday [April 12]. Ford said the rapid spread of “deadly” COVID-19 variants from South Africa, the UK and Brazil had led to this latest decision. “Right now we need to do everything possible to get ahead of these variants, and unfortunately that means looking at our schools,”

Ford said. “I know this is not what many of you want to hear ... but until we get the numbers in the community down to where we need them – the problem is not in our schools, it is in our community – and bringing our kids back to a congregate setting in school after a week off in the community is a risk that I won’t take.” There was no time frame given for when students can expect to return to the classroom. Another 217 school-related cases of COVID-19, including 186 students, 30 staff and one person who was not identified were reported on Monday. As of press time,

around 27 per cent of Ontario’s 4,828 publicly-funded schools has at least one confirmed case of the illness. Schools in Haliburton County have been impacted fairly recently. Back on March 14, it was revealed that a Grade 11 chemistry class, a Grade 12 English class, and a Grade 12 math class from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School were quarantining after being identified as close contacts of two students who tested positive for COVID-19. Last week, on April 6, it was confirmed that a positive COVID-19 case had been recorded at Archie Stouffer Elementary School.

Education minister Stephen Lecce informed the public on Monday that school boards will be directed to provide continued in-person support for students with special education needs who cannot learn remotely, and that, from April 19, childcare for non-school aged children will reopen, while free emergency childcare will be provided to health care and frontline workers. “Our government will continue to listen to the advice of public health experts. We will update parents once a safe return to in-person learning is recommended,” Lecce said.

Property owners will receive letters

from page 1

during a phased, five-year period. The first zone, where septic system inspections will be performed this year, includes Gull and Moore lakes and surrounding areas south of Minden. The second year of the program will see inspections take place in the areas around Mountain, Horseshoe and Duck lakes. The third year, 2023, will include inspections for the areas of Canning, Kashagawigamog and Soyers lakes. The fourth year will in-

clude inspections in the areas of Twelve Mile and Little Boshkung lakes; along the stretch Bobcaygeon Road north of Minden; Carnarvon; and sections of the former Anson township north of Highway 118. The fifth and final year of inspections in 2025 will focus on the former Snowdon township, including Lochlin, Gelert, Irondale and surrounding areas. Letters will be mailed to all property owners in the township shortly, and letters with more specific details about registering and

preparing for inspections will be sent to those property owners who are scheduled to inspections in 2021. While normally the process would begin with a large public education meeting, WSP will provide an online information session in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The upfront costs for the township – including fees paid to the firm for scheduling, mapping, risk assessment, public education, etc., as well as labour, legal and supplies costs – have totalled \$82,500.

Conducted on a cost-recovery basis, the lid-off inspections will cost property owners \$240; a \$225.55 fee per site, as well as a \$15 administration fee, designed to cover the township’s in-house costs for administering the program. If property owners wish to use a firm other than WSP, they have the option to do so, however, that will ultimately cost more money. The \$225 site fee and \$15 administration fee will still apply, and there will also be a third-party inspection review fee of nearly \$150.

P4P launches project to improve community housing

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

County-based affordable housing organization Places for People has received grant funding it will use for a research project aimed at improving conditions in community housing in Minden. P4P has received \$50,000 in funding from the Community Housing Transformation Centre, which is backed by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, as part of the country’s national housing strategy. P4P will use the funding to conduct a consultation and research process that will bring

tenants and community housing providers together, and will entail the hiring of a coordinator and researcher. It will include the selection of a resident representative from each of Minden’s seven community housing facilities, along with housing providers, to sit on a committee. As Fay Martin of P4P explained, the project will be one of participative research, which is where people affected by an issue are the ones studying it. “We each have a different part to play, but if we each put our shoulder to the wheel, we can move this thing forward,” Martin said. The project is expected to take about seven months to complete.

New High-Risk Contacts Identified Today		Current High Risk Contacts that Became Confirmed Cases Reported Today		
4		0	0	6
Haliburton		Kawartha Lakes		Northumberland

Total New Confirmed Cases Reported Today			Crude Rate Past 7-Days
1	2	34	77.3
Haliburton	KawarthaLakes	Northumberland	

Cases per 100,000 residents

Total Number of Cases Screening Positive for Mutations of Interest			
5	59	124	188
Haliburton	Kawartha Lakes	Northumberland	HKPRDHU

Note: Counts of cases screening positive for the various mutations of interest may differ from those reported by Public Health Ontario due to differences in the reporting time frames and data sources.

Total Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 to Date			
81	634	668	1,383 *
Haliburton	Kawartha Lakes	Northumberland	HKPRDHU

New cases of COVID-19 in the county as of April 13.

Local owners Brandon and Megan Nimigon are excited to introduce Jim Alder

You could say that Jim has the Highlands in his blood, as he’s enjoyed coming to his family’s cottage since he was a youngster. Jim has over 15 years of award winning sales experience, and has enjoyed every minute of his career creating great friendships along the way. Jim has been interested in real estate for years, and like many people, COVID has helped him make a positive career change sooner than expected. Jim and his wife have three daughters who live in Minden. He enjoys music, playing guitar, watching sports, fishing and hunting.

Jim is looking forward to putting his many years of sales experience to good use, helping people realize their dreams of home ownership right here in the beautiful Haliburton Highlands



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Granite Realty Group Inc.

Jim Alder - Sales Representative
Cell: 705.935.1112
Email: Jim.Alder@century21.ca

Local owners Brandon and Megan Nimigon are excited to introduce Kirby Keks

For over thirty years, Kirby has been diligently working with his customers, noting their needs and wants, and skillfully coming up with solutions that work best for them. Ten years ago, Kirby discovered the beauty of the Haliburton Highlands for himself when he purchased his first home here. Kirby embraces the Highlands year round, enjoying the great outdoors snowmobiling, skiing and snow shoeing in the winter; boating, fishing and golfing in the summer. In his new role as a sales representative at Century 21 Granite Realty Group Inc., Kirby is looking forward to helping other people make their dreams come true. Whether you are looking for a permanent residence, or a weekend cottage retreat, Kirby would be happy to help your dreams become reality.



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Granite Realty Group Inc.

Kirby Keks - Sales Representative
Cell: 416.525.9978
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MH councillors endorse charging station proposal

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

Minden Hills council is supporting a recommendation from the County of Haliburton that would see the township install electric vehicle charging stations at its administration office and the arena.

As part of its climate change mitigation plan, the County of Haliburton has applied to funding programs to help purchase charging stations for the county and its four, lower-tier municipalities. As for the funding framework, a report from county climate change co-ordinator Korey McKay contained two options. One option entails using The Ivy Network, jointly owned by Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation. Under that option there would be no upfront costs for municipalities, but an average annual servicing fee of \$3,300 for each two-portal station. The report indicated service would range between \$2,400 and \$4,000, depending on the location of the charging stations. The cost of electricity would come in addition to this, at approximately \$1 to \$2.50 per hour. This cost is typically recouped from the public via user fees. Installation would take place in summer or fall of this year.

A second option would entail the municipalities themselves owning the charging stations. Dual-port Level 2 charging stations cost between \$15,000 and \$25,000, with up to \$10,000 of this expenditure recoverable through the funding program. Ongoing service costs would be between \$500 and \$1,800 per unit per year, with the cost of electricity covered through user fees. Installation would take place between September of 2021 and September of 2023.

During an April 8 online meeting, Minden Hills councillors agreed to look into both options, and a staff report regarding funding will come back to the council. Money for charging stations was not included in the 2021 budget, but Mayor Brent Devolin pointed out there are grant opportunities the township could explore.

"Electric vehicles are coming to us," Devolin said. "... I think we probably need to consider going ahead with both initiatives, because I think that in less than five years, even both of these initiatives, if they're done in parallel, will not be enough for what will happen."

"I think we need to go ahead with this," said Councillor Pam Sayne. "Unfortunately it's not in the budget, but it's an investment [where] we are going to get our money back." Sayne said that over time, with the proliferation of electric vehicles, the stations should actually become drivers of revenue for the municipality.

"I'm not in favour of the municipality getting into the electric car business, but I think we should support both of these proposals, so we can see in the short term, how all of this develops," said Councillor Bob Carter. "I know it's not been added to the budget, but I think it's an expense we need to take, and we can figure out the budget as we go along."




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Scrolling, rolling into spring

A cyclist speaks on the phone while riding along the Haliburton County Rail Trail when temperatures hit double digits on April 7. After the past few months of winter, more and more people are heading out for outdoor activities. / **DARREN LUM Staff**





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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council, Committee of the Whole and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

April 29 – Regular Council Meeting
May 13 – Committee of the Whole Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenHills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenHills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

RFT #ENV 21-02 Mixed Plastics - for the transport and processing/disposal services to remove non-recyclable mixed plastics from the Scotch Line Landfill site for recycling or final disposal off-site in accordance with all local and provincial regulations.

The deadline for submissions is April 22, 2021 by 12:00 noon. Visit www.mindenHills.ca/tenders/ for more information and to download the tender document.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

Based on your feedback, we have enhanced household hazardous waste events for 2021 to include events with extended hours, alternate locations and a weekday event to accommodate retirees and those who may not work during the week. Please visit minderHills.ca/landfill for event dates and hours and accepted materials.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Cooking Safety

Consider these simple steps to make the kitchen a safe place while cooking.

- Make your kitchen a kid-free zone while preparing hot meals or drinks.
- Use back burners whenever possible, and always turn the pot handles to the back of the stove.
- Be cautious around hot liquids and steam.
- Wear short- or tight-fitting sleeves when you cook

DAYTIME BURNING & FIREWORKS REMINDER

Reminder that you will need a burn permit and a fireworks permit as of April 1st to October 31st.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Accounts Receivable/Accounting Clerk

We are currently accepting resumes for an Accounts Receivable/Accounting Clerk. This position provides assistance to the Director of Finance/Treasurer in the development and implementation of financial goals and objectives relative to the processing and payment of accounts receivable, utility billing and general accounting requirements. This position oversees the day-to-day financial functions relating to accounts receivable, utility billing and general accounting requirements.

This is a full time, union position, based on a thirty-five (35) hour work week, being Monday to Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The current rate of pay is \$24.60/hour as per LOCAL 4286 Collective Agreement. Earnings will be subject to Union dues.

Please visit: www.mindenHills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for full posting details and job description.

How to Apply:

Email cover letter and resume to: sprentice@minderHills.ca by April 30, 2021.

NOTICE OF HYDRANT FLUSHING

Please note that mandatory Fire Hydrant flushing will be performed throughout the Minden Water Distribution System between:

April 5, 2021 to April 19, 2021

During this period please allow your water to run for 2-5 minutes to clear any discoloration through the home plumbing.



A look inside the renovated Compass Early Learning and Care facility on Prentice Street in Minden. /Photos submitted

Expansion of Minden daycare centre complete

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

The renovation and expansion of the Compass Early Learning and Care facility in Minden is complete and, once it is safe to do so, the daycare provider intends to invite the community to check out the building.

Compass ELC received grant funding to expand the number of childcare spaces at the facility on Prentice Street from 26 to 49. “Our renovations are now complete and we are excited to announce that we now have spaces for 10 infants, 15 toddlers and 24 preschoolers,” reads a release from Compass. “We have been welcoming back families and are currently working through our waiting list for new families. We have some part-time and full-time spaces available.”

Families in search of childcare can register at <https://onehshn.com/kawarthalakes>. “It takes a village to raise a child, and for Compass ELC Minden, this has certainly been the case!” the release reads. “We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our families, neighbours and community members who have supported the renovation. Our funders and supporters included the Province of Ontario, County of Haliburton, City of Kawartha Lakes, and the Township of Minden Hills, including the fire department, and the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit for helping us navigate through the renovation and rezoning process. Also, a thank you to the Trillium Lakelands District School

Board for our temporary home at Archie Stouffer Elementary School while our renovations happened. Thank you to everyone who helped us reopen safely for our families and educators.” “The teams at Awde Architecture and Planning and Icon Construction were instrumental in supporting the project, and Ron and Chad were there from the drawing and planning to the ongoing support and guidance throughout the build,” it continues. The County of Haliburton is the landlord of the property, with county council voting in 2019 to purchase it for \$2 from previous owner, the Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC). Previously, the daycare had been run by the OEYC. In June of 2018, parents whose children attended the facility received a letter from the OEYC, notifying them the daycare service would be terminated after June 22, as its continued operation had become financially unsustainable for the organization. That led to a series of conversations that concluded with the county purchasing the property, in order to ensure sustainability of local childcare. The property was initially donated to the OEYC by the Dollo family.

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Dealing with docks on public property

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

Minden Hills council is considering what to do about the proliferation of private docks placed on publicly owned shoreline road allowances within the township, and is looking to involve the public in that conversation.

Councillors received a report regarding private docks on public property from township planner Ian Clendening during an online April 8 committee-of-the-whole meeting.

As that report indicates, the existing policy regarding such docks essentially divides them into three categories: one, those outside the village of Minden, where they are to be 'directly across the road' from the benefitting property; two, within the village of Minden along the Gull River, where no additional docks are permitted; and three, within Riverwalk, where existing docks are permitted to remain, at the discretion of the township.

There is a \$350 application fee to apply for permission to place a dock on a publicly owned shoreline road allowance.

As the report continues, more and more docks are being placed on public road allowances, and there is no registry system to keep track of them.

"As highlighted above, the absence of a registry system has led to the uncontrolled proliferation of docks on township property," it reads. "Enforcement is made extremely difficult due to the nature of the docks. Education could be used as a tool to mitigate

claims of private ownership of township property, however absent a dedicated revenue tool such a program is forced to compete with other township priorities.

"Should council wish to proceed with an enforceable system of dock licensing, staff recommend that a database of existing docks be compiled. Notice of the requirement to register a dock could be sent to property owners in areas where the policy might apply. To encourage voluntary participation staff recommend a waived or reduced application fee to all or a category of dock licences. Further, staff would recommend that compliance be enforced with meaningful action if voluntary participation cannot be achieved. Finally, dock owners should be provided with a plate or other system of identifying a dock as being licensed which would be affixed to the licensed dock."

Such a system would require an agreement with the County of Haliburton, since it owns some shoreline road allowances within the township.

Mayor Brent Devolin said there were many considerations to make, included the removal of all private docks from public lands.

"This is a big philosophical can of worms," Devolin said. "And we're kind of in the middle. So, we can either register them all, and put a mechanism in place. In my opinion, it's a full-time job. Somebody would do nothing but do this. And the other end of the scale, would be removal of all, on said municipal land, full stop."

"It doesn't matter where we go with this, we're going to have people ticked off in great and large numbers," he said.

Councillor Bob Carter, noting the influx of people to the county amid the COVID-19 pandemic, said he's received some calls regarding the sale of properties where new owners are being told by realtors they can use road allowances for the construction of docks. "So I guess, what I'm just trying to emphasize is that, we're not going to be able to duck this issue, in terms of delaying it. We're going to have to go ahead and, I agree 100 per cent with Ian, that if we're going to do this, we have to do it with some teeth. There are more and more docks ... appearing on these road allowances, where people don't even live near a lake. They're just putting up a dock. In some cases, we have no idea who they are. This is a problem."

Councillor Jean Neville agreed something must be done.

"This is a major problem, and we have to address it sooner than later," Neville said. "And, if we have to make up something and just go along and staple it to everybody's dock saying, produce your permit, or apply for a permit for this dock, because, as Councillor Carter said, there's all kinds of them being put up where people don't even live near the lake."

Like Carter, Neville said she receives numerous phone calls about the proliferation of docks.

"The mayor said we're going to get a lot of disgruntled people by doing it, but we have a lot of disgruntled people now, because people are saying, this is their property, and excluding people from docks that they don't even own and they don't have any right to have there," Neville said.

"I'm kind of ticked off, myself," she said. "I pay taxes for shoreline residential, and so why should somebody be able to stick a dock out here, and have all the amenities of being on a shoreline residential [property], with their plants and their boats and their water sports and everything, and they don't pay shoreline residential taxes. That's not fair to all of us that do pay shoreline taxes, and own our shoreline allowance."

Devolin said the conversation was the beginning of many to follow.

"The seven of us have to decide, philosophically, where you want to go down the road with this," he said. "We may not be all on the same page, that's fine. It's worthy of discussion."

"Wherever we go with this, we can't duck this anymore," Devolin continued. "And before the end of this term of council, we need to significantly decide this, where we're going with this. It's big, it's important, and the longer we defer if, the messier it's going to be."

Devolin said eventually he thought the discussion would need to involve some kind of task force, or another mechanism through which residents can have their say.

"I think that's the road we're going to have to go down with this," he said. "That it's an inclusive, community-based discussion with stakeholders, whether they formally have a seat at the table or there's a conduit ... If you think that the county shoreline bylaw and the hornets' nest that has been around this, it will pale to where we'll go with this, with existing docks."



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Dock debacle

LAZING ON The dock on a sunny afternoon, the kids bounding from it into the lake, the sound of splashing, and the whirl of boats in the background. This is a central part of the summer experience in the Haliburton Highlands for many.

However, more and more, docks – or rather, private docks placed without permission on public property – are becoming a problem for the county’s municipal governments.

Private docks on public property are nothing new. Think of any shoreline

road in the county, with cottages and homes on one side, then the road, then the lake on the other side. Invariably, the lakesides of such roads are dotted with docks, decks and boathouses, many of which have existed in their locations for decades upon decades. In some instances,

the shoreline road allowances where these structures exist may have been purchased by adjacent property owners. In some instances, adjacent property owners may have purchased a permit to install a dock on a township-owned road allowance. In some instances, the structures may have simply been put there, technically illegally, but allowed to remain, remnants of less regulated and more casual time in the county.

In Minden Hills, there is a policy that specifies that in such situations, a permit for a dock may only be purchased by property owners directly across the road.

Traditionally, such situations have not caused widespread issues.

What has been happening for the past few years, however, is a proliferation of privately owned docks at municipally owned water access points, typically at the end of roads, locations that have traditionally been

used as public swimming holes, and for the launch of light watercraft. What is happening at some of these locations is that people installing docks, with no permission whatsoever, are then telling other members of the public that their docks are private property, or that they are not permitted to use that access point, and so on. In some cases people whose residences are nowhere near the water are installing these docks. Arguments and confrontations are occurring.

It seems that for some, there is a certain lack of respect for the rights of others to access the water, the water of course being the county’s most primary and sacred public asset.

This is happening in all of the county’s townships, and has been discussed around their respective council tables in recent years.

In late 2020, Algonquin Highlands council ordered the removal of docks placed on public property along North Shore Road.

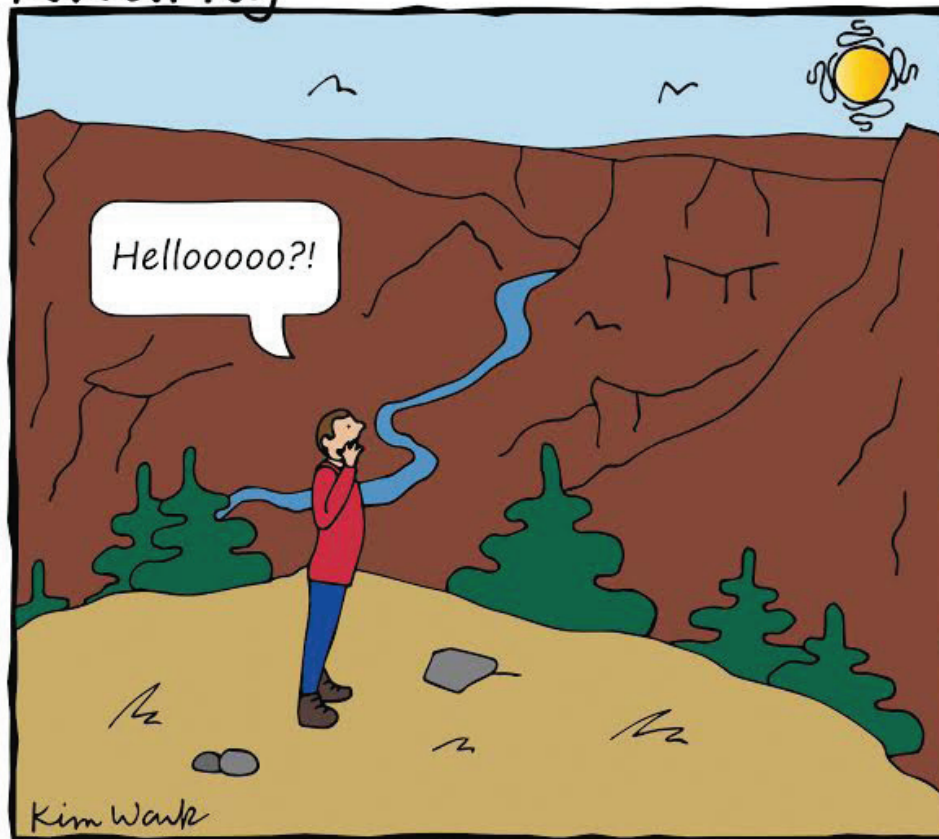
Last week, Minden Hills councillors discussed what they might do about the growing issue. The township’s planner has suggested the creation of a registry system to keep track of dock permits. Mayor Brent Devolin has suggested the operation of such a system may require the addition of a full-time staff person. Devolin also suggested that perhaps the removal of all private docks on public property is something council should consider. That discussion, which Devolin referred to as a “big philosophical can of worms,” will undoubtedly leave many people unhappy, regardless of its conclusion, which council is very aware of.

It’s sad that this level of regulation is becoming necessary, but the county seems to be changing in such a way where that is indeed the case.



CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Kwarky



What it feels like when everyone's on mute.

Indulge me a whittle

CALL ME old-fashioned, but I honestly believe you cannot be a fully formed outdoorsman unless you have whittled at least one thing in your life – and lived to tell the tale about it, of course.

Most people who have whittled would give this statement two thumbs up, provided they had not lost them in a horrible whittling accident.

This is because those who have spent time whittling know two things for certain. First, we know that whittling teaches many practical outdoors skills that will serve us well throughout life. These include knife sharpening, unsafe knife practices, first aid, courage, how to apply a tourniquet and the plural of the word, how to create dangerously sharp tent pegs, why not buying professionally manufactured tent pegs is actually false economy, how to dial 911 with less than the optimal number of fingers, how to discover that the knife you are whittling with is not a lock blade after all, and how not to faint at the sight of your own blood.

In addition to all that, the average whittler is able to show his friends a whittled carving of an old fat man that is almost always mistaken for Santa Claus because of the blood stains on the coat area.

When I was growing up, everyone who owned a pen knife whittled. This was because back then parents commonly believed that getting a few stitches was character building.

Character, and carvings of old men who vaguely resembled Santa Claus, was something my friends and I were never in short supply of.

Later in life, whittling also served well on a resume for any job that was deemed a little risky.

For instance, the interviewer might ask, “In this job, there will be times when you will be asked to tackle and then wrestle an adult grizzly bear in order to keep it distracted while the biologist determines why his tranquilizer gun isn’t working.... How do I know you are brave enough to do this?”

Obviously, if you casually mentioned that you whittled, not one, but a whole set of tent pegs as a child, you’d be hired immediately – and maybe they’d even decide not to bother with the tranquilizer gun.

I think most people who have had any experience with whittling know this much.

Sadly, members of the younger generation have not learned the important life lessons taught by whittling – and some are so far removed from the process they think when you are saying the word you are doing a passable imitation of Mike Tyson saying “whistling.”

That might seem like a reckless joke for me to make, since there is very high probability

that Mike Tyson reads this column, as all he-man types do. Then again, I whittled when I was a kid, so he doesn’t scare me much.

Because they have lost touch with the magical pastime of whittling, this new generation of outdoors enthusiasts will also never know the correct way to sit on the hunt camp’s front porch rocking chair either – and that’s a shame.

This is why I am writing this article. I’m hoping that these words might inspire the younger generation to take up this highly important outdoors skill, especially when they are hogging the rocking chair on the front porch. This is a good start, but as Mike Tyson might say, I have a whittle bit more work to do.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Thinking about what ails me

OH DEAR, my ophi has returned. I tried to hold it back, but it walloped me into a dizzy spell.

A picture taker on Kushog Lake is to blame for my relapse.

I was perusing that lake association's Facebook page, looking for photos that might show winter's ice disappearing. I found one of open water beginning to appear along the shore. Good news! Boating season not far off.

My eyes moved from the open water to the rocky shoreline. And there it was among the sun-warmed rocks, basking evilly in the spring sunshine – a very large water snake.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

I don't know why a water snake was out with ice still on the lake. I do know it wasn't out to do something good. Snakes are like that.

This one must have been at least four feet long, or even longer. I can't say for sure because my panicked fingers quickly keyed the computer off. My stomach roiled, my lips quivered and I looked for a place to lie down.

That's what my ophi does to me. It leaves me physically ill and mentally unhinged.

My ophi is ophidiophobia, fear of snakes. Lots of folks have it. California anthropologist Lynne Isbell

has estimated that around a third of people are scared of snakes.

People magazine reported that tough guy Matt Damon "cried like a baby" when snakes were spread over the set of his 2011 movie *We Bought a Zoo*.

My case is severe. I was hunting one day when a snake slithered down a rock face in front of me. I lost all rational thought and, shooting from the hip, I emptied my 12-gauge shotgun on the snake. I spent the next hour picking ricocheted shot out of my skin.

Some researchers believe that ophidiophobia is evolutionary, something developed in our ancestors as a survival system. I read that in *Verywell Mind*, a website that offers articles purporting to improve mental health and balance.

The article said ophi can be tricky to diagnose.

Surely, they are joking! When I see a photo of a snake and start vomiting, that's all the diagnosis I need.

That article said that if you fear only large snakes, or venomous snakes, you have only mild ophidiophobia. If you are afraid of smaller snakes as well, it's severe.

Yeah well, a snake is a snake; large, small, brown or purple. And, my mental health would be much improved by a world without them.

The good news is that ophidiophobia can be cured. Hypnosis is said to be one cure and is actively promoted by a number of hypnotists advertising on the internet.

One promoter is Glenn Harrold, a Brit who says self-hypnotherapy helped cure him of problems with drugs, alcohol, street crime and other destructive habits. He now produces and sells self-help advice.

"The only way to completely free yourself of the fear of snakes is to re-programme your mind under self-hypnosis," he says on his publishing website.

The theory is that it is normal to be nervous around unfamiliar animals. So, you start dispelling the fears by becoming more familiar with them.

These fears supposedly can be pushed aside by slowly becoming exposed to snakes. This can start by talking about them, viewing photos of them and developing positive thoughts - like snakes are not really slimy and slithery. This leads up to actually seeing a live snake, then eventually holding one.

Holding a snake definitely would cure my ophidiophobia. It would disappear forever because at the first touch I would be stone cold dead from a heart attack.

Other therapies include systematic desensitization and cognitive behavioural therapy which "help sufferers change their unproductive thought patterns." This apparently "allows sufferers to distinguish that their intense fear is in their imagination."

I can assure the phobia experts that my fear is real, not imagined. And, my thought patterns are not unproductive. They are productive enough for me to convince my wife that a bowl of ice cream every night actually is good for my health.

I don't need hypnosis or other therapies to reprogramme my mind. I'm happy the way it is. I just don't like snakes and don't intend to ever make friends of them.

letters to the editor

Thanks, Laurie

To the Editor,

I recently renewed my subscription to the *Minden Times*. As I turned to my favourite section of the contributing writers, I realized that this is why I will re-subscribe.

Jim Poling provides me with thoughtful, insightful articles that I thoroughly enjoy, Steve Galea, well, he just makes me laugh. (I also have wild untamed tarps in my yard!) but it is the articles by Laurie Sweig that I often cut out and hang around various parts of my home (to encourage and remind me to do the exercises).

During this pandemic, I have found her practical exercises that I can do at home and her edu-

cational articles on food choices and lifestyles sometimes give me the "kick in the butt" that I need. I was saddened when I read that she is going to be contributing every other week now; although I appreciate she must look after her own health and lifestyle also. I certainly did notice that the *Minden Times* would occasionally "bump" her to the next page to accommodate a letter to the editor, of which I never found to be more interesting than Laurie's articles. I wish Laurie good health and will continue to enjoy the challenges she provides, just now ... every other week.

K. Nesbitt

LKO speaker series continues

The Lake Kashagawigamog Organization is hosting a Zoom seminar on the evening of Tuesday, April 20. The speaker will be Dr. Rebecca Osbourne and the title of her talk

is Stayin' Alive: Environmental Threats to Our Lake and Forest Creators. To register, visit www.lko.ca



Out of steam

Guenter Horst submitted this photo of an old steam engine he came across.

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The Witches directed by Robert Zemeckis

A delightful remake of Roald Dahl's enigmatic literary tale, *The Witches* follows a young boy who, after a tragic car accident, goes to live with his loving grandmother in the rural Alabama town of Demopolis in late 1967. While shopping one day, the boy encounters a strange but glamorous woman who attempts to lure him away with sweets. Afraid, he informs his grandmother, who tells him the woman was a witch. Fearing for his life, his grandmother whisks him away to a seaside resort for safety. Little do they know, the pair arrive at the very same time that the world's Grand High Witch has gathered witches from around the globe -- under cover -- to carry out her nefarious plans. With a star studded cast including Octavia Spencer, Anne Hathaway, Chris Rock, and Stanley Tucci, *The Witches* is sure to please. Check it out from Haliburton County Public Library today.



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Backyard chickens back for MH council

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The issue of allowing backyard chickens in Minden Hills is back on the proverbial table for township councillors after a delegation during an April 8 online meeting.

During last week's committee-of-the-whole meeting, councillors heard a presentation from resident Matthew McWilliams, requesting the township amend its zoning bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard chickens. Currently, Dysart et al is the only one of Haliburton County's four lower-tier townships that permits keeping backyard chickens. Backyard chickens are permitted in numerous municipalities across Ontario, including large urban centres. The issue has been discussed by a series of Minden Hills councils, with requests from the public coming forward every few years.

Citing the township's zoning bylaw, McWilliams pointed out that "farm uses," including the growing of horticultural crops, raising of livestock and maple syrup production, are technically prohibited in residential zones.

McWilliams told council a complaint had been lodged against his family for the use of their one-acre property, where they grow vegetables, tap maple trees, have apple trees and keep backyard chickens. "All of which are classified as farm use," he said. "Unfortunately, our entire neighbourhood is at fault for one or more of the farm uses stated. We recently went door-to-door, inquiring about our land use and who was in support of our urban farming/backyard chicken venture, and the surrounding 50-plus households in our residential zone are in support."

McWilliams, who during his presentation spoke to issues of food security and the environmental consequences of shipping food long distances, had also

collected signatures.

"In the trend of green and climate action, why wouldn't the township be encouraging the growing of backyard food production, including and not limited to, eggs from chickens?" he said.

"I have been working on this for years," said Councillor Jean Neville, a lifelong poultry farmer who's in her third term on council, noting that reasons for continuing to disallow backyard chickens in the past have included concerns around disease. "... I have not yet known anybody to have caught a disease or died from a chicken, myself and family included."

"Just so everybody is aware, and I know there aren't too many chicken fanciers here on my screen right now," Neville continued, "the social well-being, I'd really like to speak on that. During COVID, there has been an influx of people keeping chickens and raising baby chicks. And if you've never had them, and don't laugh, they are the best mental therapy, ever. No kidding."

Councillor Bob Carter, who'd been a member of the township's planning committee before being elected to council, noted the bylaw had been reviewed years ago.

"At the time, there was a fairly extensive review done of towns across Ontario," Carter said. "Based on the feedback and a number of issues ... it was decided not to proceed with changing the bylaw. So, I would suggest that if we are going to do anything, it should go back to committee and that work should be reviewed, and we should go from there. I don't think we should just make changes, even though it seems like the right thing to do ... all changes have consequences, so we should at least review the research that was done."

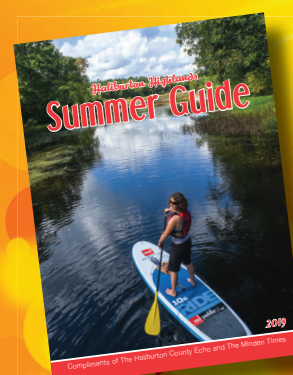
Councillor Pam Sayne, who'd also been on the planning committee for a previous look at backyard chickens, said she recalled one of the major issues being the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture,

see **RESIDENT** page 12

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- Pat Williams, Eagle Lake



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Beloved Dorset store under new ownership

by SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Mike and Katie Hinbest made a choice to set out to live their most ideal life, and in doing so, will become the owners of the iconic Robinson's General Store in Dorset as of May 1.

The couple moved from Orangeville to Huntsville a few years ago, looking for something different. He worked in automotive repair, owning a Napa Auto Parts store for almost a decade, while she has a background in healthcare as a recreation therapist working to improve the quality of life for patients who have had a stroke or lung disease.

"We realized, we started looking at our life a few years back now, a good three or four years ago, and realizing that Orangeville wasn't as small a community as it used to be, and every time we got a spare moment we always went north. We always came back to Muskoka and to Haliburton and so on," said Mike. He said the couple have a "live your dream" philosophy.

"Don't live one day unhappy," he said. "So we sat back and said, you know what, let's move north and live our dream," he said. "Life's too short."

As they were going through the process of listing their business for sale and beginning to look for a house, Mike's younger brother tragically passed away at the age of 30.

"That really changed our perspective on life - as for anybody, that big shock in life just changes you, and we realized that life is extremely short, and you'd better enjoy what



Huntsville residents Mike and Katie Hinbest, seen here with children Ethan and Brie, will become the new owners of Robinson's General Store in Dorset on May 1. /Submitted photo

you do every day," said Mike. "Part of us moving up here was for lifestyle, enjoyment, raising our kids [Ethan and Brie] the way we feel they should be and we basically sat back and said, OK, what's next for us, what do we enjoy doing?"

When Mike was young, his family had a cottage in Haliburton on Little Kennis Lake.

"That's where we first learned of Dorset, actually," he said, noting that he and his family snowmobiled in the area, which he and Katie continued to do years later, cottaging and camping in the Muskoka and Haliburton

area.

"We carried the tradition on," said Katie.

That Mike and Katie care about tradition is essential for the community as the Hinbests become the new owners of the beloved store that has been in the Robinson family for 100 years this year, with four generations of the family owning or working in Robinson's General Store, which operates seven days a week, year round.

"In the beginning, the store was a 1,200-square-foot traditional general store, there to service the logging industry and the few locals," reads the website. "It struggled

through the depression, then the war years, until 1950 when the first building addition was constructed. After that, whenever the store was able to accumulate a bit of money, another expansion was built. Now, 15 additions later, the store has grown to over 14,000 square feet of retail space."

Mike remembers visiting Robinson's General Store in his youth.

"It's just so surreal to remember seeing something as a child, and having no idea that 30 years later you are going to be a part of this, in this community," he said. "It's so cool. It's awesome for that to happen. To see that kind of stuff in life. You just never know."

Mike had sat down to write out ideas of what his dream job might look like, then sat back, list in hand, to brainstorm which businesses might encompass those ideas. It was then he saw that Brad Robinson had listed Robinson's for sale.

"Once I saw it, it was a no-brainer," he said. "It just felt like the place I wanted to be ... It's just so much fun. I love the idea of that iconic, cottage country store that families and generations remember forever and those types of memories are what I really enjoy so just being able to do that for other people is something special and fun."

"Mike is very business-savvy and passionate about things," said Katie. "So, if he really loves something, [he has] a gut feeling, 'I have to do this, I have to be here.'"

"How am I just so lucky that I'm getting to live my dream right now?" he said. "You just feel so fortunate."

Mike said the stories of the past that Brad
see ROBINSON'S page 12

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Resident requests change to bylaw

from page 8

Farming and Rural Affairs and its concerns around potential spread of viruses coming from chickens.

“The requirements for growing chicken with OMAFRA are incredibly strict,” Sayne

said, adding she supported a review of the matter, and thought the municipality should check with the ministry.

Mayor Brent Devolin said the issue of backyard chickens, along with other recurring issues such as the use of shipping containers and trailers, would be looked at as part of the township’s official plan review.

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Answers on page 17

Robinson's store leaves family

from page 11

has shared with him are compelling, and he hopes to be able to uphold the tradition of what Robinson’s has nurtured while continuing to offer a “great customer experience.”

“It’s a pleasure to me to be able to work with the community and figure out what it is we need to do to keep that tradition going,” he said.

While much will remain the same, Mike said a new addition to the store’s offerings - Affogato Cafe + Gelato - will bring a coffee shop to the building, and he and Katie hope to launch a winter campfire feature to create a destination for snowmobilers.

“The Robinsons always built the store off of, what are you having to drive a half an hour, or drive further away to get,” said Mike. “If you’re driving away for it, you’re taking away from your family time. So can we bring it out to Dorset for you? That’s my thoughts with all of it, is focusing on that idea. What do people need? Let’s bring that to them. That’s our job.”

The community response has also been motivating to the Hinbests.

“It’s just amazing how supportive the com-

munity is,” said Mike. “To see that many positive vibes about it, and people willing to help you out, I just love that about this world. It’s one of the reasons we moved up north - people hold the door open for you and they say good morning to you, and that just showed that right away, people were like, what do you guys need, what can we help you with? I have yet to see one person who hasn’t been totally supportive in trying to help us out.”

Both Mike and Katie noted the excellence in staff, who they said are passionate about their work.

“We met with staff and every single one of them cared so much about working at Robinson’s, and were so proud and passionate about it,” said Katie.

“It was reassuring,” said Mike. “There’s a reason people love the place, well, it’s because the staff do such a good job at it ... Once we talked to them we said, we’re so lucky to have people like this to work with.”

“It feels so nice to come in to something like that,” said Katie.

For more information about Robinson’s General Store, visit <http://www.robinsons-generalstore.ca/>.

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IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Application FOR Minor Variance

This meeting will be heard as an electronic hearing by way of a teleconference call

Take Notice that the Committee of Adjustment of the Township of Minden Hills will hold a Public Hearing on:

DATE: **MONDAY, April 26, 2021**

TIME: 10:30 AM

LOCATION: Due to the physical distancing requirements imposed as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held as an electronic hearing by way of a teleconference call. To participate:

Join the meeting by telephone by dialing either: 1-647-374-4685 OR 1-647-558-0588

Enter Meeting ID 949 2209 8906

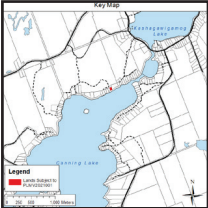
Join the meeting using a computer or smart phone at:

www.zoom.us/j/94922098906

to consider minor variance applications **PLMV2021001, PMLV2021006, PMLV2021019, PMLV2021020, PMLV2021021, PMLV2021022 PMLV2021023 PMLV2021024** and **PLMV2021025**. The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider the proposed Minor Variances to the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law pursuant to Section 45 of the Planning Act. The minor variance applications being considered are listed below:

PLMV2021001- Part of Lot 17, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1189 Loucks Lane; and located on Canning Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the construction of a new two-storey garage with an oversized sleeping cabin on the 2nd storey to be located within the required rear yard setback. The variance sought would allow for a rear yard setback of 3m. (10') whereas 12m. (39'4") is otherwise required for a two storey garage; and, to permit a sleeping cabin measuring 40 m2 (430.6sq.ft.) in size whereas 35 m2 (377sq. ft.) is otherwise the maximum; and, to permit 5.7% lot coverage for accessory structures whereas 5% is otherwise the Maximum.



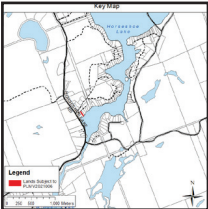
PLMV2021022 - Part of Lot 27, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth; municipally known as 8700 Highway 35; and located on Moore Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the construction of an addition measuring 53.5 m2 (576sq.ft.) to the existing 80.3 m2 (864sq.ft.), non-complying, dwelling. The variance sought would allow for a 67% increase in size whereas 25% is otherwise the maximum permitted for a non-complying dwelling located 19.8m. (65') from the High Water Mark.



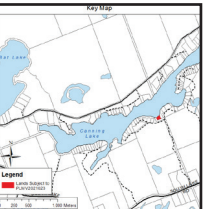
PLMV2021006 - Part of Lot 10, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1026 Nectarine Lane; and located on Horseshoe Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the reconstruction of the existing 128.5 m2 (1,383sq.ft.), non-complying, dwelling which measures 4.3m. (14') in height with a new taller dwelling measuring 10.1m. (33') in height (measured to top of roof) to be located 2.2m. (7'3") from the east side lot line with a new deck encroaching to a distance of 1.2m. (3'11") from the east side lot line. The variance sought would allow for the dwelling and deck, which currently encroaches onto the neighbouring property, to be rebuilt within the required 4.5m. (14'9") side yard setback greater than 1.2m. (3'11") taller than existing.



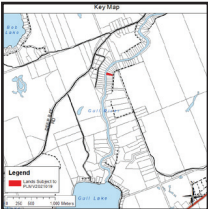
PLMV2021023 - Part of Lot 10, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon; municipally known as 1186 Macklin Trail; and located on Canning Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the conversion of a 26.8 m2 (288sq.ft.) section of the existing open deck which is situated 14.9m. (49') from the High Water Mark (HWM) into an enclosed sunroom. The variance sought would allow for the construction of a new sunroom addition within the required 23m. (75'6") setback from the HWM.



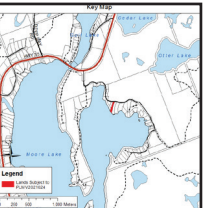
PLMV2021019 - Part of Lot 6, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Lutterworth; being vacant land on Manor Lane; and located on the Gull River (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the construction of a new dwelling and sleeping cabin proposed to occupy 352.2 m2 (3,791sq.ft.) representing 19.5% of the lot area. The variance sought would allow for a total lot coverage greater than the 15% otherwise permitted within the Shoreline Residential (SR) zone and within the Flood Risk (FR) overlay zone.



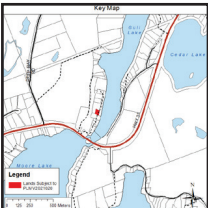
PLMV2021024 - **Part of Lot 1**, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth; being vacant land on Wessell Road; and located on East Moore Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the construction of a new 86.2 m2 (928sq.ft.) dwelling to be located within the required side yard setback and setback from the High Water Mark (HWM). The variance sought would allow for the new dwelling to be situated 2.7m. (8'10") from the side lot line whereas 4.5m. (14'9") is otherwise required; and 16.7m. (54'9") from the HWM whereas 23m. (75'6") is otherwise required.



PLMV2021020 - Part of Lot 24, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Lutterworth; municipally known as 1052 Beverley Lane; and located on Gull Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the replacement of the existing 44.6 m2 (480sq.ft.) dwelling measuring 3.7m. (12') in height and is situated 12.8m. (42') from the High Water Mark (HWM) with a new larger and taller dwelling measuring 80.9 m2 (871sq.ft.) and 5.2m. (17') in height and to project to a distance of 12.8m. (42') from the HWM together with the replacement of the existing 36.7 m2 (395sq.ft.) sleeping cabin with a new 44.6 m2 (480sq.ft.) garage The variance sought would allow for a larger and taller building projecting further towards the HWM and a new garage within the required setback.



PLMV2021021 - Part of Lot 28, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1066 Reflection Circle; and located on Soyers Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the replacement of the existing 32.5 m2 (350sq.ft.) detached garage with a new 87 m2 (936sq.ft.) detached garage measuring an additional 2.4m. (8') in height and projecting further within the required setback of a private right-of-way. The variance sought would allow for a garage measuring 6.1m. (20') in height whereas 3.5m. (11'6") is otherwise the maximum within 40m. (131'3") of the High Water Mark (HWM); and, to permit a setback of 1.2m. (4') from a private right-of-way whereas 3m. (9'10") is otherwise required.



PLMV2021025 - Part of Lot 28, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1055 Grandview Lane; and located on Kashagawigamog Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the replacement of the existing 173.4 m2 (1,866.6sq.ft.) dwelling and attached open deck which are situated 19.3m. (63'4") and 13.6m. (44'7") from the High Water Mark (HWM) with a new 194.4 m2 (2,092.6sq.ft.) dwelling and attached deck both projecting closer to the HWM with the open deck also projecting into the required side yard. The variance sought would allow for a total lot coverage of 22% and permit the proposed larger and taller dwelling to be situated 16.4m. (53'10") from the HWM and the open deck to be 14.7m. (48'3") from the HWM and 3.4m. (11'3") from the side lot line.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding these applications are available online at www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom. Copies of the complete applications will be available for public inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Building and Planning Department by appointment only.

HAVE YOUR SAY: Input on the above noted applications is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Township. If you do not attend the public meeting, it may proceed in your absence and, except as otherwise provided in The Planning Act, you will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceedings.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: To provide input in writing, or to request written notice of the decision, please contact the undersigned or e-mail iclendening@mindenhills.ca.

Any person or agency who is of the opinion that holding the hearing as an electronic hearing is likely to cause them significant prejudice, may make a submission to the undersigned, and if the Committee is satisfied that holding the hearing as an electronic hearing is likely to cause the party significant prejudice then the hearing will be re-scheduled as an oral hearing.

Interested parties are encouraged to join 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled start time.

For additional information on participating in an electronic hearing visit: www.tinyurl.com/yyctaqa0

If you are interested in participating in the hearing you are encouraged to contact the undersigned prior to the meeting date with any questions you may have and/or to provide any material for the Committee's consideration at the hearing.

ACCESSIBILITY: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. **If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.**

PRIVACY DISCLOSURE: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

For more information about this matter contact iclendening@mindenhills.ca.

Ian Clendening, MPL., ACST
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment
P.O. Box 359, 7 Milne Street, Minden ON., K0M 2K0

Please note: paper submitted to the Township is being held for three (3) days before opening. If providing comment, please consider making an electronic submission to the e-mail address above, or, make specific reference to the Application Number on the outside of the envelope.

Be prepared when venturing out in the woods

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Last month two lost hikers needed to be rescued by the OPP in the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park. It was a reminder of the dangers related to venturing into the woods when not prepared.

Even before the recent provincial stay-at-home order, Ontario Parks wanted the public to limit travel and adhere to provincial recommendations said Natalie McMorrow, park superintendent for the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands, Balsam Lake and Indian Point.

“As much as people love to visit Ontario Parks, we are still hoping people will limit travel to follow provincial guidelines at the time, depending on where we’re at with COVID-19. We’re encouraging everyone to do their part by minimizing their risk to ourselves and others by continuing to follow public health advice,” she said. “We certainly know we’re having visitors, but we just want to make sure that everyone is taking steps to reduce their exposure to the virus and to protect themselves and others.”

The Queen Elizabeth II is a massive non-operating park at 33,505-hectares, spanning from Minden to Gravenhurst.

However, it’s acknowledged that people will still travel, which could include outdoor activities such as going into the woods of Ontario Parks. McMorrow said it’s important that visitors equip themselves with knowledge and prepare for any eventuality.

“Recently, we formed a designated phone line that has a long information message at the beginning, but it’s pretty valuable for people that might know how big this park is and how many different user groups are in there,” McMorrow said.

She recommends visitors to use the (705) 454-3324 ext. 5226 number. This line is checked daily and staff will return calls to ensure people receive help, she said. She encouraged the public to visit the Ontario Parks website (www.ontarioparks.com/park/queenelizabeth2wildlands) for the QEII because it not only offers recommendations about planning updates about the park, but also includes a downloadable map with campsites and trail information. The map can be downloaded to any device and used offline and doesn’t require internet connectivity to navigate, which can be an issue in the area.

There are a diverse range of activities available to do at the park, which boasts with 100 kilometres of Ganaraska hiking trails. Established in 2002, the park provides a setting for hiking, paddling, fishing, camping, boating, snowshoeing, and with restrictions even hunting and snowmobiling. McMorrow points out there aren’t any designated bicycling trails at the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands. Currently, overnight camping is unavailable.

One tip before heading out into the park from the parking lot is to leave a note on the vehicle or share a trip plan with someone, McMorrow adds.

“A family member calls us and says, ‘My friend was supposed to be home by 5 o’clock then at least we know they told someone where they plan to go in and kind of where they had planned to go,’” she said.

Her recommended list of items for a safe day out or multiple days out include making a trip plan, taking a compass and knowing how to use it, having a map, whether that’s downloaded to a device or a paper version, and a water purifier,

She adds experience in the outdoors is in-

valuable and suggests people go to operating parks such as Algonquin Park and Kawartha Highlands before going to a non-operating park like the QEII.

“It’s definitely not beginner back country,” she said.

After the hikers were located, the OPP Central Region shared a video through Twitter depicting the hikers being spotted from the air, noting that in an emergency, people should not panic; stop: sit, think, observe and plan; stay put to help reduce time and search area; seek shelter and stay warm, and signal for help, as reported by the Echo.

It’s important, McMorrow said, that visitors intending to stay overnight be aware that with limited designated camp sites that people have a backup plan for accommodations.

A non-operating park like the QEII presents greater challenges and issues if one gets lost or hurt.

“Unlike Algonquin or Kawartha Highlands, QEII is non-operating. So, non-operating parks typically have limited facilities and infrastructure and do not take camp site reservations or collect camping, or day-use fees,” she said.

There is limited access to the park, she adds.

Popular starting point, Devils Lake, isn’t just an access for the park, but is also used for residents and users of water-access cottages. It creates parking issues. There are also only less than 10 designated, first-come campsites

available from that access point.

McMorrow said there have been no additions made to staff numbers, despite an anticipated growth in interest in the site, but the staff available will be directed to the areas of greatest need, such as Devils Lake, Victoria Falls and Little Gull Lake, which is the most popular day-use area.

McMorrow reminds users to follow “back-country etiquette,” which includes adopting a no trace approach to enjoying the outdoors and carrying everything out that you brought in. This is also related to proper food storage such as using sealed food containers and abiding by the Ontario Parks signage recommending the use of bear bags suspended from a tree branch for safety, as bears are drawn, to food but also to aromatic items such cooking oil, toothpaste and deodorant. Expect bears to come out of hibernation mid-April and be most active in May, she said.

Although there is no quantifiable visitation data for the QEII, last year Ontario Parks had more than 11 million visitors, McMorrow said.

She adds, as of several weeks ago there has already been a 110 per cent increase in reservations for parks relative to last year and there is an expectation that will continue for the rest of the year.

“So we’re definitely anticipating an increase interest to QEII,” she said.

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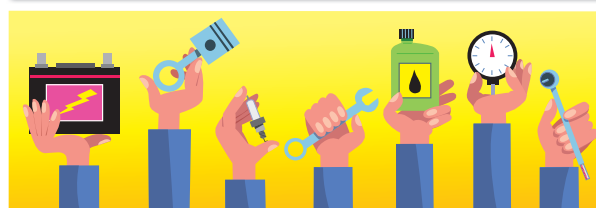
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Archie Stouffer Elementary School students created their own "food chains" displays, which incorporated assorted items to represent the different food sources.

Food for thought

Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grade 1 teacher Chris Little speaks with student Ivy Voicay about her "food chains" display on April 6 in Minden. /DARREN LUM Staff

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is looking for seasonal cleaning and maintenance staff May - Oct. Student positions available July to end of Aug. Rates of pay up to \$22/hr. Apply by email to rob@campnbb.com or call **Camp Northland 705-754-2374**

MILLPOND RESTAURANT

is looking for servers and kitchen staff. Starting now. Summer positions and year round available. Cooks/ servers/ dishwashers. Flexible hours. **Contact Brad at 705-489-3353 or email millpondbrad@gmail.com**

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is looking for seasonal full time/part time Delivery Drivers. Class D preferred. Class G with experience. **Please email info@hylandice.com or call 705-448-2973.** Competitive wages including bonus. Medical after 3 months.

HYLAND ICE SUPPLY

is accepting applications for Drivers Helpers. **Please email info@hylandice.com or call 705-448-2973**

400

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Please submit your resume to either:

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ryan@cottagecbs.com

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HOUSE CLEANER needed Mid-May through to September. Sundays from 11-4pm. Pay \$20-25/hour. Located 10 minutes from downtown Haliburton. **Please contact Leanne at 705-927-5801**

520 THANK YOU

Dearest Saint Rita It is with sincere thankfulness and confidence that I bless you and thank you for your intercession. Your power over the hopeless has given us everything. Continued devotion to you and the Sacred Heart and thanks to all who have helped. L.E.M.


Minden Times

Classifieds

Call 705-286-1288
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline 4 pm Monday

400

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Cleaning Services
Onondaga Camp, Minden,
seeks 5 Staff SEASONAL (2021)
Starting at \$17.00 /hr and up

We are looking for Cleaners to care for our facilities by providing a high standard of cleaning and light maintenance duties. The goal is to keep all facilities in a clean and orderly condition. Responsibilities are to clean and stock designated facility areas (disinfecting, dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, restroom cleaning etc.), carry out heavy cleansing tasks and special projects, notify management of occurring deficiencies or needs for repairs, stock and maintain supply rooms, cooperate with the rest of the staff, follow all health and safety regulations, knowledge of cleaning chemicals and supplies, familiarity with Material Safety Data Sheets.

Up to 48 hour work week Summer (6 days).
Daily and Evening shifts available. (June-Sept)
NO ACCOMODATION PROVIDED

Off Site Driver
Onondaga Camp, Minden, seeks 1 Staff SEASONAL (2021) **\$14.50/hr**

This position does not have daily set hours but is an on-call position generally between the hours of 9am-6pm and will average 6 hrs/day of work at \$14.25/hr. This role requires the candidate to live off-site and retrieve the camp vehicle from the camp on a daily basis.

Responsibilities

- Pick up prescriptions/supplies as needed for the Health Centre.
- Do a daily 'town run' to pick up supplies that are needed for camp programs or office.
- Pick up supplies in Toronto (or outside of Minden/Haliburton) as needed.
- Handling of incoming and outgoing mail.
- Ensure that vehicles are scheduled and taken for oil changes as needed.
- Ensure the vehicles have adequate gas and fill as necessary.
- Keep vehicles clean and free of garbage.
- Keep the exterior of the vehicles clean; have them washed as needed

Necessary Qualifications/Competencies

- Full G License & minimum age of 21 years old
- Ability to have a flexible schedule and work independently
- Attention to detail
- Ability to work and communicate with a wide variety of people

30 – 40 Hour work week
June – September Contract
NO ACCOMODATION PROVIDED

To protect the health and safety of our clients and employees, we have modified our normal operating policies in response to COVID-19.

If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at matt@onondagacamp.com. Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)

A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.



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School bus drivers earn a steady and rewarding part-time income. We provide friendly, professional training. This is a perfect opportunity for retirees, at-home parents and for persons with flexible hours who are looking to supplement their income. All school bus drivers must be available from Monday to Friday between approximately 7:00AM to 9:00AM and 3:00PM to 5:00PM, (September to June) on school days only (exact times vary depending on school times and individual routes).



Applicants must have a clean driving record (abstract) and be willing to complete a Vulnerable Sector Search (during application). Signing bonus for drivers with a Class B licence.

If you are interested in becoming a school bus driver please email dfreeman@haliburtonbuslines.ca or call our office 705-457-8882.

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Want to be part of a green project?

The Haliburton County Green Burial Society seeks new Board members to help bring green burial to Haliburton County. Do you have skills with photography, social media, education, administration, finance, or municipal government? To discuss, please contact hhgreenburialsociety@gmail.com.

New members welcome.

Minden Times Classifieds

Call 705-286-1288
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline 4 pm Monday

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



CONTRACT POSITION – PROJECT COORDINATOR

Places for People is seeking applications for a Project Co-ordinator (May-November contract). This position is responsible for implementing a tenant-centric research project designed to empower community housing tenants to identify and address shared concerns in order to make their community a better place to live. The Coordinator will support and supervise two data-collection persons, and report on a weekly basis to an Oversight Committee comprised of tenant and housing provider representatives.

Required Experience/Skills:

- coordinating projects
- leading a team
- facilitating community engagement
- good organizational and management skills
- ability to de-escalate / resolve conflict
- strong verbal and written skills
- self-motivated

Priority will be given to a candidate with lived experience in community housing as well as an understanding of Minden community housing. Access to transportation is required. Remuneration is \$25/hr for 30 hrs/week. Variable hours are expected.

Interested candidates are asked to send a resume and cover letter to P4P, Box 544, Minden or email to admin.assistant@placesforpeople.ca before April 23, 2021.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

NOW HIRING

420 EMPLOYMENT WANTED



Township of Algonquin Highlands Public Works Department

We are seeking to fulfill the following positions;

- Two (2) - Seasonal Operator
- One (1) - Seasonal Maintenance Worker

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the full job descriptions.

Please submit your resume by
3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23, 2021 to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

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THE TIMES

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LOOK Inside



Ladybug relief!

Kym Gordon says she's
found a solution to her
plague of ladybugs
See page 12



Mother trucker

With eight kids to care
for, Jo-Anne Howard-
Carter takes to the road
See Second Front

Quote of the week

"We are justifiably upset.
We have been taken over
forcefully."
Vernon LeCraw, page 3



ALLISON TAYLOR/TIMES

Spring colours

All hats bright and beautiful were welcome at Zion United Church's spring tea last week. As dozens of well-dressed patrons such as Olive Daniels and Bette Mavor nibbled on delicious treats, they were entertained by the Gentlemen of Song. For details of this annual fundraising event, see page 9.

Minden Food Bank needs help to keep the shelves stocked

by ALLISON TAYLOR
Times staff

It isn't at the brink of closing its doors, but the Minden Food Bank is struggling to keep tum-tums from rumbling this summer.

"Donations are down a bit but we are holding our own," says Barbara Walford-Davis, president of the Food Bank.

After a long, cold winter and a successful Christmas Baskets

program, the food bank is falling on hard times this spring. They are trying desperately to keep the shelves stocked. With shortages in donations of both food and money, the bank has had to cut back on some of the items they usually keep stocked on their shelves. Items such as soap, shampoo and feminine products will not have as big a priority as food, unless the donation levels increase a little.

The shelves aren't empty but

they are looking a little sparse. Empty boxes and open spaces are evident at first sight.

"Once Christmas was over there was a drop in the amount that people give," she says.

It isn't the end of the road, but the needs of the Food Bank are considerable, she says.

Located on Main Street in Minden near Sunny Variety, where the IGA was once located, the food bank moved last year

see FOOD page 2

Shake, rattle and roll

Highlanders
feel the earth
move during
Saturday's
earthquake

by MARTHA PERKINS
Special to The Times

In that fuzzy time between sleeping and waking, it takes the brain a few seconds to realize why the entire world is shaking.

"I thought my son Ken was upstairs jumping up and down," Bill Beers says of his rather peculiar experience on Saturday morning. "I thought 'what the...?'"

At the Hunter Creek Estates a few kilometres south of Beers' home on Newcastle Street in Minden, Alf and Moe Briscoe also looked at each other with bewilderment. They were just about to get out of bed at ten to seven when the bed started to shake and their bedroom's sliding glass doors began to rattle.

"Both of us just said 'What was that?'" Alf says.

Turning on their television, they soon found the answer. Commentators were reporting that an earthquake with a reading of 5.5 on the Richter Scale had just reverberated for a good 10 seconds throughout the north-eastern United States and eastern Canada - felt as a gentle rumble all the way to the Highlands. The earthquake's epi-centre was near Lake Champlain in New York.

It soon became the talk of the town on Saturday morning as conversations began with the words "Did you feel it?" Of course, there was also a whole lot of snickering going around

see WAS THAT page 10

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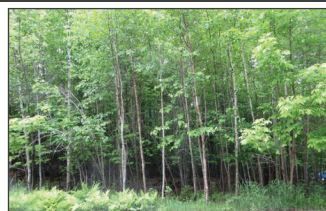


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Kennisis Lake \$1,699,000

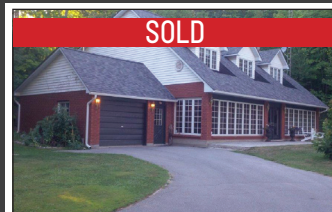
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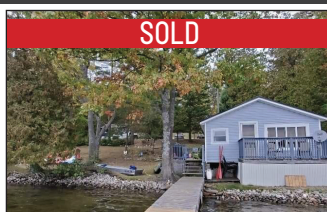
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• 285 FT of sand shoreline, deep off the dock
• Amazing lakeside screened in sitting room



Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
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Mink Rd. \$109,900

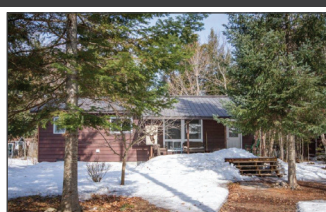
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• Year-round Municipal Road access
• Minutes to Haliburton Village



David Lee*
286-2138 x 227

Green Lake \$529,000

• 125 ft sand shoreline
• 2 bedroom, 615sq.ft.
• 1 bdrm Bunkie,
• Newer septic, upgraded elec



Donna McCallum*
455-2054

Beech River \$699,000

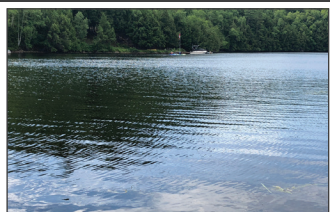
• Riverfront home in a lovely setting
• Nicely updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath
• Two finished levels of living space
• Good swimming, boat into Beech Lake



Brandon Nimigon***
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Haliburton Multi-Rental \$395,000

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Karen Nimigon**
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Haliburton Lake \$199,000

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705-457-6841
Kirsten Rae*
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Minden Lake \$799,000

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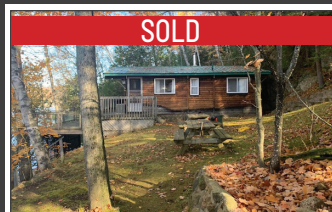
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